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SANITARY LEGISLATION.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

MISSISSIPPI.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Notification of Cases—Prevention. (Ch. 115, Act Mar. 15, 1916.)

SECTION 1. *Inflammation of the eyes of the new born defined.*—That any inflammation, swelling, or redness in either or both eyes of any infant, either apart from or together with any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of any such infant, independent of the nature of the infection, if any occurring, any time within two weeks after birth of such infant, shall be known as “inflammation of the eyes of the new born.”

SEC. 2. *Duties of physicians, midwives, etc.*—It shall be the duty of any physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home or hospital of any nature, parent, relative, and any person attendant on or assisting in any way whatsoever any infant, or the mother of any infant, at childbirth, or at any time within two weeks after childbirth, knowing the condition hereinabove defined to exist, within six hours thereafter, to report such fact as the State board of health shall direct, to the local health officer of the city, town, village, or whatever other political division there may be, within which the infant or the mother of the infant may reside.

SEC. 3. *Duties of the local health officer.*—It shall be the duty of the local health officer: (1) To investigate or to have investigated each case as filed with him, in pursuance of the law, and any other such case as may come to his attention; (2) to report all cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new born and the result of all such investigations as the State board of health shall direct; (3) to conform to such other rules and regulations as the State board of health shall promulgate for his further guidance.

SEC. 4. *Duties of the State board of health.*—It shall be the duty of the State board of health: (1) To enforce the provisions of this act; (2) to promulgate such rules and regulations as shall, under this act, be necessary for the purpose of this act, and such as the State board of health may deem necessary for the further and proper guidance of local health officers, etc.; (3) to provide for the gratuitous distribution of a scientific prophylactic for inflammation of the eyes of the new born, together with proper directions for the use and administration thereof, to all physicians and midwives as may be engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirth; (4) to provide, if necessary, daily inspection and prompt and gratuitous treatment to any infant whose eyes are infected with inflammation of the eyes: *Provided further*, That the State board of health, if necessary, shall defray the expenses of such treatment from such sums as may be appropriated for

its use; (5) to publish and promulgate such further advice and information concerning the dangers of inflammation of the eyes of the new born and the necessity for prompt and effective treatment; (6) to furnish copies of this law to all physicians and midwives as may be engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirth; (7) to keep a proper record of any and all such cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new born as shall be filed in the office of the State board of health, in pursuance with this law, and as may come to their attention in any way, and to constitute such record a part of the annual report to the governor and legislature; (8) to report any and all violations of this act as may come to its attention to the local police, county prosecutor, or district attorney in the county wherein such misdemeanor may have been committed and to assist such official in every way possible, such as securing necessary evidence, etc.

SEC. 5. *Requirements in maternity homes, hospitals, etc.*—It shall be the duty of the physicians, midwives, or other persons in attendance upon a case of childbirth in a maternity home, hospital, public or charitable institution, in every infant immediately after birth, to use some prophylactic against inflammation of the eyes of the new born and to make record of the prophylactic used. It shall be the duty of such institution to maintain such records of cases of inflammation of the eyes of the new born as the State board of health shall direct.

SEC. 6. *Duties of midwives.*—It shall be the duty of a midwife in every case of childbirth under her care, immediately after birth, to use such prophylactic against inflammation of the eyes of the new born as the State board of health requires.

SEC. 7. *Violation of this act a misdemeanor.*—The failure of any physician, midwife, etc., as hereinbefore set forth, to comply with any of the provisions of this act shall constitute a misdemeanor under this act, and the offender shall, on conviction thereof, be fined for the first offense not to exceed \$50; for the second offense not to exceed \$100; and for the third offense and thereafter not to exceed \$200 for each violation. It shall be the duty of the local police, county prosecutor, or the district attorney to prosecute for all misdemeanors as herein prescribed.

Tuberculosis—Notification of Cases—Establishment and Maintenance of State Sanatorium. (Ch. 109, Act Mar. 25, 1916.)

SECTION 1. *Establishing a tuberculosis hospital.*—That a sanitarium for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis shall be established under the management and control of the State board of health, with such limitations as are imposed in the succeeding sections of this act. The said sanitarium shall be known as Mississippi Sanitarium for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, and the State board of health shall have the right to acquire land or accept donations of land on which to establish said sanitarium.

SEC. 2. *Superintendent; his appointment and qualifications.*—The State board of health shall elect a superintendent of said institution, who shall be a well-trained physician and experienced in public health work. The superintendent shall make all recommendations to the board in directing said sanitarium, and the board is hereby authorized to elect and employ such officials and pay such fees and salaries from the appropriation made for this purpose by the legislature as may be found necessary for the proper management and maintenance of said institution.

SEC. 3. *State board of health to provide for admission of patients.*—The State board of health shall determine the qualifications for admission of those apply-